

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A reporting system for creating a report comprising:

a prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one

5 validation property; and

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to the execution of a  
report.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the resolution object is created

10 by a third party outside of the reporting system.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the stored resolution object is  
used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein an answer from a stored  
resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

15 5. The system according to claim 3, wherein the resolution object causes the  
suppression of a prompt.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the report is scheduled to  
execute at a future time.

7. The system according to claim 1, wherein a resolution object converts  
20 itself from XML into a format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting  
system from a third party source.

8. A method of processing a report with one or more prompt objects to be executed in a reporting system comprising the steps of:

selecting a template with one or more template properties;

selecting a filter with one or more filter properties, wherein one or more of the

5 template or filter properties has been specified with a prompt object;

selecting a stored resolution object comprising answers to a question of the prompt object; and

processing the report using the stored resolution object to answer prompt object questions.

10 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the resolution object is created by an entity different than the entity processing the report.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein an answer from a stored  
15 resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the resolution object causes the suppression of a prompt.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

20 14. The method according to claim 8, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into a format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

15. A processor-readable medium comprising code for execution by a processor to create a report to be executed on a reporting system, the medium comprising:

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a template with one or more template properties;

5 code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a filter with one or more filter properties selecting a template with one or more template properties, wherein one or more of the template or filter properties has been specified with a prompt object;

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a stored resolution object comprising answers to a question of the prompt object; and

10 code for causing a processor to process the report using the stored resolution object to answer prompt object questions.

16. The medium according to claim 15, wherein the resolution object is created by an entity other than the entity processing the report.

17. The medium according to claim 15, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during execution of the report.

18. The medium according to claim 17, wherein the resolution object causes the suppression of a prompt.

19. The medium according to claim 15, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

20. The medium according to claim 15, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into a format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

21. A resolution for use as part of a reporting system for responding to prompt objects in a report, wherein the prompt object comprises a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the resolution object comprising:

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object;

5 wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to the execution of a report.

22. The resolution object of claim 21 which is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

23. The resolution object of claim 21 comprising code for converting its  
10 format from XML into a format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.